

Why Charter Schools USA?

Synopsis of Intervention

- At Emma Donnan Middle School's community hearing, many of the speakers were teachers who advocated for their school and its students. A few mentioned their investment in plans and efforts to institute a turnaround model at the school in the upcoming academic year (2011-2012).
- An analysis of the school-level data collected over the past two years highlights the fact invested teachers, such as those who spoke at the hearing, will be critical in efforts to dramatically improve Emma Donnan Middle School.
- Quality reviews conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 highlight the need for school and instructional leaders to create and implement a shared vision and strategic plan for critical areas in need of improvement – instruction, curriculum, student data analysis, and professional development.
- Student-level data representing Emma Donnan Middle School's performance while on academic probation illustrates only a small increase in students' proficiency in English/Language Arts and a small decrease in students' proficiency in Math. Fewer than half of students are demonstrating proficiency in both English/Language Arts and Math.
- Given these extensive challenges, it is recommended that Charter Schools USA be assigned as a Turnaround School Operator for Emma Donnan Middle School.
- Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) is the most appropriate Turnaround School Operator for Emma Donnan Middle School for a number of reasons.
 - CSUSA has the internal resources to build the capacity of teachers to utilize data-driven instruction as well as to build the capacities of school leaders to conduct meaningful, differentiated teacher evaluation and coaching.
 - Its data management system will provide the school leader and teachers real-time information on students' progress to drive differentiated instruction and supports. This system and the internal resources listed above are structures that will greatly assist the school leader and teachers in improving student achievement.
 - By working in both Manual and Emma Donnan, CSUSA will ensure systems, including curriculum, formative assessments, and professional development, are vertically articulated across grades 7 through 12. Among other things, this will address the number of students arriving at Manual below grade level.
 - Both of CSUSA's middle schools earned an "A" rating from the state of Florida based on their 2010-2011 performance. All other CSUSA schools serving middle school students (in addition to elementary or high school students) earned "A" or "B" ratings.